

## **Construction Industry Communication #40**

**From:** Amit Ghosh, Chief Building Official  
**Re:** Permit/Inspection Process – Photovoltaic (PV) Systems  
**Date:** December 15, 2011

**Requirements:** The Ohio Building Code (OBC) requires all Building Services Equipment to be inspected per OBC 108.2.9. The Building Services Equipment designation encompasses those electrical systems located within or for use by building operations including any Photovoltaic Systems (PV) being installed. Additionally, Building Services Equipment are required to comply with the plan approval process as designated within OBC 107 and the inspection process designated within OBC 108 including any special inspections deemed necessary by the Chief Building Official per OBC 108.2.11 & OBC Section 1704.

**Background:** Due to the inherent nature of PV Systems necessitating the use of sunlight for optimum operation, the majority of this equipment is located in elevations that increase the hazards for inspections, requires specialized training and equipment to inspect safely and increases the time necessary to successfully complete. The City of Columbus has established procedures to comply with these requirements which will not adversely affect customer service levels expected by both the electrical industry and the citizens of Columbus.

**Memorandum:** The following shall be utilized for permit and inspection procedures for all PV Systems installed within the City of Columbus;

Plans sealed by a design professional registered in the State of Ohio are required to be submitted for approval in accordance with OBC 107 / RCO 106.

- The documentation within the expedited permit process for PV Systems will be required to be utilized for plans to be accepted for review, see link below.  
<http://brooksolar.com/files/Expermitprocess3.pdf>
- All standard plan review fees will apply as identified within the Building and Zoning Services (BZS) Fee Schedule.

A special inspector will be designated by the permit applicant to perform the required special inspections of the PV System.

- Documentation will be required to be submitted by permit applicant to the Chief Building Official for review.
- Documentation will identify the qualified individual or entity.
- Documentation shall substantiate the credentials of individual or entity as possessing the necessary expertise in PV Systems to perform such special inspections.
- The Chief Building Official will determine approval of the individual or entity to perform special inspections in accordance with OBC 1704.1 or RCO 109.3.6.

Upon receipt of an approved plan review and a qualified special inspector, a City of Columbus electrical permit will be required to be obtained by the permit holder per CBC 4113.

- All standard electric permit fees will apply as identified within the BZS Fee Schedule.

Upon completion of all work identified within the approved construction documents, a special inspection will be required by the qualified special inspector.

- A City of Columbus Photovoltaic System Checklist will be required to be prepared by the approved special inspection entity verifying the installation to be in accordance with the approved construction drawings.

Upon completion of the above, the Photovoltaic System Checklist shall be sent to [electricinfo@columbus.gov](mailto:electricinfo@columbus.gov) for approval.

## PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM INSPECTION CHECKLIST

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 17 of the Ohio Building Code and Construction Industry Communication #40, the undersigned special inspector certifies the following list:

- Work was completed in conformance to the approved documents.
- All equipment is identified and listed for the application.
- All equipment is installed per the manufactures specifications and requirements.
- Installation is in compliance with Section 1512 of the Ohio Building Code, Article 690 of the National Electrical Code and all applicable referenced standards.
- Electrical permit is obtained by a registered electrical contractor with the City of Columbus.

Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Site Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan Approval Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Electrical Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NABCEP or PE Certification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Special Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_